

Inquiries of the Ministry

Energy, Mines and Resources I announced guidelines to northern pipelines on August 13, 1970.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Chrétien: Those guidelines—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The minister knows that if he wants to make a statement in the House he should be prepared to do so on motions.

An hon. Member: What a smuggling job!

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I have only one more line.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If the Minister has only one more line he might be allowed to finish.

Mr. Chrétien: I should like to thank members who have given me the opportunity to practise my English. Those guidelines made it clear that, in principle, oil and gas pipelines were acceptable to the government of Canada but on the conditions stated in the guidelines.

Mr. Orange: Can the minister indicate the degree of priority which has now been given by the government to the environmental and social studies necessary before such pipelines are constructed?

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, the House knows very well that the government has given the highest priority to the environmental and social studies on which we have spent millions of dollars. We have made a lot of progress and are ready to entertain any application.

PROPOSED MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE—RESULTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development whether the studies have now been completed with regard to environmental protection and environmental risk resulting from such a pipeline through the Canadian north and, if so, is the minister prepared to be open with the House and the country and indicate the results of this research?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I cannot certify that all studies are completed. I said earlier that we made considerable progress in that regard and that we could examine any application we would receive. Then decisions would probably be taken after completion of the studies.

[*English*]

PROPOSED MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE—DISCUSSION WITH INDIANS ON SETTLEMENT OF LAND CLAIMS

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): I have a supplementary question for the minister since he seems to be so well prepared to answer these questions today. Has he yet had any consultations with the Indian people whose lands, which any proposed route must traverse, are involved with

[Mr. Chrétien.]

respect to settling their land claims? If he has not had such discussions, when does he intend to commence them?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member should know that Indians have had their own committee to study their rights and treaties for two years already and that they are examining that problem while Commissioner Barber is doing the same work for the government.

[*English*]

Mr. Nielsen: Since the minister did not answer my question I can only assume that he did not hear it. Has the minister had any discussions with the Indian people concerning their land rights in these areas of the north and, if not, when does the government intend to commence them?

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I have explained to the House that there is a mechanism in place. Probably the hon. member was not aware of it.

Mr. Nielsen: That is still no answer.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for New Westminster for a last supplementary on this subject. We will soon be running short of time and I have to seek the co-operation of hon. members to limit the number of supplementaries.

PROPOSED MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE—
CONSTRUCTION BY GOVERNMENT WITH CANADIAN FUNDS

Mr. Douglas A. Hogarth (New Westminster): I should like to ask the minister whether the government will give consideration to the possibility of the construction of such a pipeline by the Canadian government with Canadian funds?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: You are in the wrong party, Doug.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, the matter of Canadian participation in the construction of the pipeline was dealt with in statements made in August 1970. In fact, we would be happy that Canadians take part in it to the greatest extent possible.

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[*English*]

AIR TRANSPORT

USE OF FRENCH LANGUAGE BY TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS IN QUEBEC

Mr. Cliff Downey (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, about two weeks ago I asked a question of the Acting Prime Minister at that time concerning difficulties in air traffic control towers which could have caused accidents in the province of Quebec. It was indicated at that time that indeed a